

THAT WHICH IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A computer comprising:
at least one memory;
basic input/output system (BIOS) instructions
and operating system (OS) instructions stored in said
5 at least one memory;

a processor connected to said at least one
memory and which upon starting first operates based
upon said BIOS instructions and thereafter operates
based upon said OS instructions;

10 a timer for shutting down said processor a
predetermined time after being started unless a
deactivation code is received;

said BIOS instructions causing said processor
to calculate the deactivation code and start said
15 timer; and

a biometric security sensor cooperating with
said processor for causing the deactivation code to be
received by said timer based upon at least one sensed
user biometric indicating an authorized user.

2. The computer of Claim 1 further
comprising an enabling device which until activation
prevents said timer from shutting down said processor.

3. The computer of Claim 2 wherein said
enabling device comprises at least one of a write-once
memory, a jumper, and a fusible link.

4. The computer of Claim 2 wherein said OS
instructions cause said processor to activate said
enabling circuit responsive to a command from a user.

5. The computer of Claim 1 wherein said BIOS instructions cause said processor to calculate the deactivation code and start said timer prior to said processor operating based upon said OS instructions.

6. The computer of Claim 1 wherein said OS instructions cause said processor to cooperate with said biometric security sensor for causing the deactivation code to be received by said timer.

7. The computer of Claim 1 wherein said BIOS instructions cause said processor to check and verify that said biometric security sensor is installed and operational.

8. The computer of Claim 1 wherein said BIOS instructions cause said processor to check and verify that said timer is installed and operational.

9. The computer of Claim 1 wherein said biometric security sensor comprises a fingerprint sensor.

10. The computer of Claim 1 wherein said at least one memory comprises a ROM memory for storing said BIOS instructions and a magnetic disk for storing said OS instructions.

11. A computer comprising:

a read only memory (ROM) having basic input/output system (BIOS) instructions stored therein;

a magnetic disk having operating system (OS) instructions stored therein;

a processor connected to said ROM and magnetic disk and which upon starting first operates

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10         a timer for shutting down said processor a
    predetermined time after being started unless a
    deactivation code is received;

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a biometric security sensor cooperating with said processor for causing the deactivation code to be received by said timer based upon at least one sensed user biometric indicating an authorized user; and

12. The computer of Claim 11 wherein said enabling device comprises at least one of a write-once memory, a jumper, and a fusible link.

14. The computer of Claim 11 wherein said BIOS instructions cause said processor to calculate the deactivation code and start said timer prior to said processor operating based upon said OS instructions.

16. The computer of Claim 11 wherein said BIOS instructions cause said processor to check and

verify that said biometric security sensor is installed and operational.

17. The computer of Claim 11 wherein said BIOS instructions cause said processor to check and verify that said timer is installed and operational.

18. The computer of Claim 11 wherein said biometric security sensor comprises a fingerprint sensor.

19. A biometric security system for a computer comprising at least one memory having basic input/output system (BIOS) instructions and operating system (OS) instructions stored therein and a processor
5 connected to said at least one memory and which upon starting first operates based upon said BIOS instructions and thereafter operates based upon said OS instructions, the biometric security system comprising:
a timer for shutting down the processor a
10 predetermined time after being started unless a deactivation code is received;
BIOS instructions for causing the processor to calculate the deactivation code and start said timer; and
15 a biometric security sensor for cooperating with the processor for causing the deactivation code to be received by said timer based upon at least one sensed user biometric indicating an authorized user.

20. The biometric security system of Claim 19 further comprising an enabling device which until activation prevents said timer from shutting down the processor.

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28. A method for reducing unauthorized access to a computer comprising a processor, the method comprising:

calculating a deactivation code and starting
5 a timer responsive to basic input/output system (BIOS) instructions;

causing the deactivation code to be received by the timer based upon at least one sensed user biometric indicating an authorized user; and

10 shutting down the processor a predetermined time after being started unless the deactivation code is received by the timer.

29. The method Claim 28 wherein the BIOS instructions cause the processor to calculate the deactivation code and start the timer prior to operating the processor based upon operating system
5 (OS) instructions.

30. The method of Claim 28 further comprising checking and verifying that the timer is installed and operational responsive to the BIOS instructions.

31. The method of Claim 28 wherein the at least one sensed user biometric comprises fingerprint data.